

Serial No.: 10/070,780  
Case No.: 20519P  
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Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

9. (currently amended) A method of determining whether a candidate compound is an inhibitor of a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MurC polypeptide comprising:

(a) providing at least one host cell harboring an expression vector that includes a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and

(b) culturing said host cell under conditions that promote the expression of said polypeptide, and

(bc) contacting at least one of said cells with the candidate to permit the interaction of the candidate with the MurC polypeptide, and

(ed) determining whether the candidate is an inhibitor of the MurC polypeptide by ascertaining the relative activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the candidate.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein in step (c) the ~~relative~~ activity is determined by comparing a measurement of MurC polypeptide activity of the sample before step (b) to a measurement of MurC polypeptide activity of the sample after step (b).